Rehabilitation Council of India

1444. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rehabilitation Council of India has since started functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c) Rehabilitation Council has been functioning from 1986 as a Registered Society to regulate training policies and programmes and also to standardise training courses for professionals dealing with disabled persons etc. To give it statutory powers, Rehabilitation Council of India Act was enacted on 2-9-1992 and is in force.

Children Suffering from Handicaps

1445. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that children of the country suffer from a number of handicaps which retard their development;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of them are working in unorganised sector as rag pickers and are in a state of abject poverty;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to launch a scheme for their all round welfare and development; and

(d) what are the details of the scheme and by when it is likely to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, a Central Sector Scheme called Scheme for the Welfare of Street Children, has been launched to cover the following categories of Children ;

(i) Children who live on the street or pavements;

(ii) Children who live in slums but spend most of their time on the streets engaged in various activities;

(iii) Children who work in (a) street trades such as rag picking, petty vending and shoe-shining; (b) manual jobs as coolies helpers, cleaners, rickshaw pullers etc. and (c) employment in wayside teastalls, restaurants, automobile garages, tyre & tube workshops, machine shops etc.

(d) The Scheme has been launched in the eleven most-populous cities during the current financial year. The Scheme provides for nonformal education, vocational training, health check-up, nutrition, counselling to children and families and organise recreation to the disadvantaged, neglected and abused children. The scheme also provides for implementation through voluntary organisations and monitoring through City-level Task Forces.

Board of Directors of NSFDC

1446. SHRI J.S. RAJU : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board of Directors of NSFDC has since been re-constituted;

(b) whether any public representative has been included in it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?